



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **For Information Contact:**

#### **Public Affairs**

(202) 252-6933

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/dc/news/2011/apr/news.html>

### **Eighth Person Pleads Guilty to Charges in Credit Card Scheme - Defendant Paid Part of Her Car Payments With Stolen Credit Card Information -**

WASHINGTON - Kiandra Haywood, 36, of Washington, D.C., has pled guilty to a charge of first degree theft in connection with her role in a credit card fraud scheme, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Haywood is the eighth person to plead guilty in an investigation into a ring that stole identifying information, obtained credit, and/or accessed victims' existing bank accounts. The ring's members purchased merchandise and paid bills with the stolen credit and bank accounts.

Haywood entered her guilty plea on May 18, 2011 before the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. She is to be sentenced August 12, 2011. Haywood faces up to 10 years of incarceration and a fine of up to \$5,000.

According to information submitted to the court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, Haywood played a role in a highly sophisticated identity theft and credit card fraud ring that operated in the Washington, D.C. area from December 2006 through March 2010. All told, the ring's activity involved more than 179 corporate and individual victims and approximately \$1.2 million in fraudulent transactions.

Between approximately November 2007 and continuing until approximately January 2008, Haywood paid one of the ring's members half of the face value of her car payment on four occasions. The ring member, in turn, paid the full value of Haywood's car payments using stolen credit information. The transactions totaled over \$1,000.

Seven others have previously pled guilty to federal charges in connection with this case. The investigation was conducted by the Washington Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the District of Columbia Inspector General's Office, the Washington Field Office of the U.S. Secret Service, and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of D.C. Office of Inspector General Special Agent Bernadette Todd-Atwater, Postal Inspector Dean Davis, U.S.

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Secret Service Special Agent Chris Macomber, and MPD Detective Michael Pavero, as well as the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Legal Assistant Jared Forney. They also commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who is prosecuting the cases.

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